



THE TOWN OF Fenwick Island

Spring 2022 Newsletter



MESSAGE FROM THE MAYOR

It's almost 34 degrees today: I want to believe Fenwick's winter might be over, but yesterday we had snow. Meanwhile friends and neighbors are still hanging out in warmer locations. But, we are no longer completely alone. Already two neighbors have returned from far away winter places to check on their beach houses. Now "catching up with the news" has become another good reason to be outside. Spring is more than daffodils!

The merchants are also opening up as more visitors and part time residents arrive. As we continue to emerge from the Covid pandemic, I predict that this summer will be another great season for everyone in spite of what's going on in the rest of the world. Warren's Station (and our Town) recently received positive publicity as the place to taste the best pies! Please check Fenwick's businesses directly for particulars about opening dates as every day brings changes. If you know of anyone looking for a summer job, applications are available.

So what's going on? Again, the Council continues to meet and work with the various committees and boards to make improvements in and around the town. The one positive consequence of the pandemic has been the development of Zoom technologies that have allowed Town officials to make group decisions with public input. Thanks to initiatives taken by Fenwick's Town Administrator Menominee and Town Manager Schuchman, Fenwick is taking steps to update its Zoom connections, which have become a normal way of running daily operations.

Be aware that dates, times and links for all meetings are posted on the Town website: fenwickisland.delaware.gov. For more information, note meeting times and previous minutes. The **FIN** has also included some brief updates from the various boards, committees and town officials.

Best regards, Mayor Vicki Carmean

From the Town Manager's Desk

Most of you are aware that the Town of Fenwick Island is a member of the *National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP)* which provides federally backed flood insurance that encourages communities to enact and enforce floodplain regulations. The *Community Rating System (CRS)* is a part of the *NFIP* and provides incentives and tools to further flood prevention practices and requirements.

The goals of the *CRS* are to recognize, encourage and reward by the use of flood insurance premium adjustments, community activities beyond the minimum required by the *NFIP* that reduce flood damage to insurable property, strengthen and support the insurance aspects of the *NFIP* and encourage a comprehensive approach to floodplain management.

Thus, the *CRS* provides insurance premium rate reductions to policy holders in recognition that their community activities work toward these three goals of reducing flood damage, supporting the insurance part of the *NFIP*, and pursuing a broad approach to floodplain management.

The Town of Fenwick Island has been rated a Class 9 *CRS* community which provides the Town's flood insurance policy holders a 5% discount on their flood insurance premiums. For additional information or copies of FEMA Elevation Certificates on buildings constructed in Fenwick Island since 1990, please contact **Pat Schuchman, Town Manager** at Town Hall.

The Residential Advocacy Committee is diligently working to address the concerns of the community regarding issues that affect the quality of life in our quiet, residential beach town. We are accomplishing goals with the support of very dedicated volunteers on our committee along with other committees and Town Council members. Also, thank you to the Town's dedicated staff who facilitate our ability to accomplish our goals for the community. Please join our efforts by volunteering with your time and talents. "The more the merrier!" We are thankful for our democratic government and the ability to express our concerns and enthusiasm for the future of Fenwick Island.
-Janice Bortner, Chair

FENWICK ISLAND TOWN COUNCIL

Vicki Carmean
Mayor
vlcarmean@verizon.net

Jacque Napolitano
Vice Mayor
jnapolitano@fenwickisland.org

Bill Rymer
Treasurer
wrymer@fenwickisland.org

Natalie Magdeburger
Secretary
nmagdeburger@fenwickisland.org

Janice Bortner
Council Member
jbortner@fenwickisland.org

Paul Breger
Council Member
pbreger@fenwickisland.org

Richard Benn
Council Member
rbenn@fenwickisland.org

TOWN OF FENWICK ISLAND

Address
800 Coastal Highway
Fenwick Island, DE 19944

Phone
302-539-3011

Fax
302-539-1305

Police
302-539-2000

IMPORTANT DATES

Next Town Council Meeting:
April 22, 2022 @ 3:30pm
Bay to Beach Cleanup
April 23rd 8:30am Town Hall
Offshore Wind Symposium
Indian River HS- May 20th



As the summer season approaches, do not forget to properly display parking permits by hanging the blue hang tag on your rear view mirror and your circular stickers on the back driver side bumper. Visitors may obtain temporary parking permits from the kiosk outside the Police Station or by utilizing the Park Mobile App.

-Chief John Devlin

On-Duty Cell (non-emergency):

302-542-8793

Dial **911** for any emergency!

FROM THE POLICE CLERK'S OFFICE

Please be advised parking permits will be mailed out along with this newsletter. As in past years, each property on record with the Town will receive 1 hang tag and 2 parking stickers.

If you do not receive your parking pass, please contact Erin Ellinger at 302-539-3011 x212. The parking pass number that was originally mailed to you will then be listed as a voided number and a new parking pass will be issued to you. Be aware: the voided number list will be given to the Police Department for issuance of parking violations if any of those numbers are used!

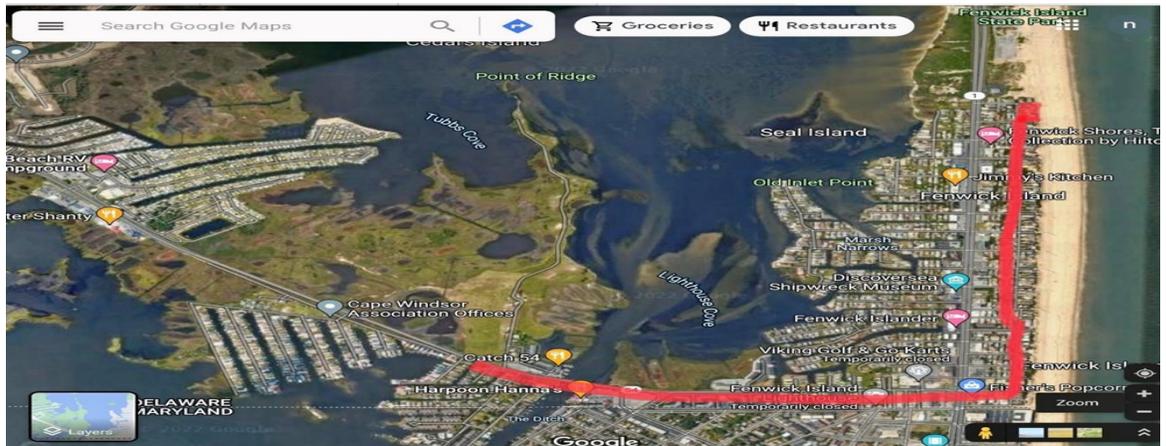
WHY DID THE TOWN VOTE TO BAN LSV'S AND SHUTTLES?

Prohibited since 2000, the use of Low Speed Vehicles (LSV) again was recently under consideration by the current Town Council and the Charter and Ordinance Committee (C&O). This also became a hotly debated issue last summer when it was revealed that previous Council had drafted an ordinance to operate 14 to 18 shuttles along Bunting Avenue.

A review of the ban and the possible impact on road safety was undertaken in November and December of 2021. As a result of this study, the C&O Committee recommended a ban on such vehicles for safety reasons:

- **Delaware State law** forbids the use of such vehicles on dual highways, although LSV's are allowed to cross at intersections and can travel on other roads with speed limits of 35 mph or less.
- **The speed limit on Rt. 54** from the first bridge to the traffic light on Rt. 1 is 35 mph. Therefore, LSV's could run from Rt. 54, cross Rt. 1 at the light, and then continue into Fenwick along Bunting Avenue, which is the only north/south road that LSV's could use in the town. As such, Bunting would become a gateway road to the beach for LSV's from other communities.
- **Unofficially known as "Fenwick's Boardwalk,"** Bunting Avenue is a favorite place for pedestrians and bicyclists, which is so noted in Fenwick's state-mandated 2017 Comprehensive Plan that prioritizes pedestrian safety for a "walkable" community.
- **Allowing LSV's and shuttles** would limit their use to other residential streets without connecting north/south roads, thus endangering pedestrians in a town without sidewalks.
- **Safety studies** clearly demonstrate the catastrophic results for shuttle passengers when LSV's collide with regular vehicles. Pedestrians also would be on the losing end of any impact with a shuttle.
- **Allowing one person or business** to operate a LSV would legally require the Town to permit everyone to have an equal opportunity.
- **The use of shuttles** cannot be "grandfathered in" because this is a traffic ordinance.

While individual Council Members empathize with LSV supporters, all seven voted unanimously to ban shuttles at the April 4th meeting because Fenwick is the wrong community for LSV's to operate safely.



NOTICE STARTING JUNE 2ND

Trash and recycling will be switching days in June. Residential trash pickup will be Monday & Friday. Recycling pickup will move to Thursday. New schedules are available on the website or at Town Hall.

JOIN FENWICK ISLAND BEACH

PATROL- FIBP is looking for athletes that are interested in a summer job as an Advanced Certified Ocean Rescue Lifeguard. Recruits are trained and certified in Open Water.

Rescue & Medical Response. All training is paid! You must be 16 years old or older at time of hire.

Contact Captain John Rykaczewski at beachpatrolcaptain@fenwickisland.org

BEACH COMMITTEE UPDATE

Summer Bonfire– This is a fun family activity that raises funds for Fenwick Island Beach Patrol. The date is set for 7/2/2022 from 7-11pm. Please come out to support Fenwick's finest.

Beach Dune End Trash Enclosures– Public Works is working on the beach dune end trash enclosures for Dagsboro, James and Atlantic Streets. They will be completed and installed before the summer season begins. The schedule for trash pick up for the beach ends only will be Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the summer season. Residential trash pickup has been changed to Monday's and Friday's. Residential recycling pickup has changed and will now be on Thursday's. We hope you like the new beach end trash/recycle can enclosures as it aids in keeping our beach ends clean and tidy.

Beach Replenishment– Fenwick Island is tentatively on the list for beach replenishment, however, we have been told that there is a wait due to pending funding by the Federal government.

Towels on Bannisters– Last fall some residents had concerns regarding this matter and investigation shows that no neighboring towns have ordinances banning towels on bannisters except Henlopen Acres. Henlopen Acres is a historical and exclusively residential (no commercial entities) which makes it different than our Fenwick community. This, in addition to the challenge of enforcing a mandate for no towels on bannisters, makes it untenable for Fenwick Island. It is my recommendation that we not pursue an ordinance like this.

-Jacque Napolitano, Beach Committee Chair